

0080-1

Document 0080

Ellen Russell  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ms Russell,  
I am writing to you to express my concerns about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require Intergen and Sempra Energy to mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants, Intergen’s La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra’s Termoelectrica de Mexicali, clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

Harry A Freiberg III  
610 Mardon Ct  
Brookings, OR 97415

0079-1

Document 0079

Allowing power plant developers selling power in the American market to take advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico sets a disastrous precedent. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin limits on salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico. Inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

Michael Heaney

0082-1

Document 0082

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Semptra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. The DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Semptra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

Joanne Dunn  
Organizational Effectiveness  
Kaiser Permanente  
303-338-3932  
Visit Human Resources @ <http://coweb.co.kp.org/hr>

0081-1

Document 0081

Ellen Russell  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Semptra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

I used to work in the border communities including Mexicali and Calexico. These communities already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. The DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Semptra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Dianne Post  
Attorney  
Phoenix, AZ

0084-1

Document 0084

Ellen Russell  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am writing to comment on the pending issue of Department of Energy (DOE) issuance of presidential permits to Sempra Energy and Intergen. As an environmental health professional, I am extremely concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. It is critical that no permits be granted to Sempra or Intergen until they have made binding commitments to mitigate the impacts of their power plants, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation, both in this case and in others of a similar nature.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. The DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

In my understanding, this is NOT the manner in which either NAFTA nor the proposed CAFTA are intended to operate, nor is the failure of DOE to insist on offsets consistent with promised policy under the Bush administration, which purports to promote the rule of law and protection of the environment. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the

Document 0083

Ellen Russell  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am very concerned about Sempra Energy and Intergen misusing the system to develop plants that are hazardous to the health of people and the environment. If the DOE insists on permitting those plants, which I do not support, then at a minimum, the DOE must require mitigation efforts on the part of these groups. Without substantial mitigation efforts, they should not be granted presidential permits.

As you know, border communities already suffer from poor air quality, lack of clean water, and, as a result poor child health. It is morally repugnant to me that we are exporting problems to Mexico, and creating problems for children and adults in California. The DOES should insist that Intergen and Sempra Energy be held to higher standards.

Although the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, the DOES seems reluctant to enforce air quality regulations and the Colorado River Basin's water quality ceiling. It also ignores the impacts on Mexico which, again, is morally reprehensible. We are fueling our reckless energy consumption by ignoring the harm we do to other human beings and to the environment as a whole. The time will come when all this recklessness will create a crash and that is quite clear scientifically. It seems incumbent upon us to consider our descendants when taking actions that may make their lives more difficult.

The DOE does not have a mandate to increase the profits of U.S. energy producers. It has a mandate to help develop safe, clean energy that will be of broad public benefit, including the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens and the health of the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you first of all to deny these permits. If there is too much political pressure for this, then you must insist on strong air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

Karen Frank and Dana Fickeisen

0083-1

0085-1

Document 0085

0084-1  
(cont.)

Ellen Russell  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Semptra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Further, I am also concerned about security, reliability, and safety issues, all of which are less regulated in Mexico.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. The DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Semptra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,  
Will Edgington

need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I call on you to assure adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

The courtesy of your reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lin Kaatz Chary, PhD, MPH  
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\* Lin Kaatz Chary, Ph.D., MPH  
\* Environmental Strategies and Consulting  
\* 7726 Locust Avenue  
\* Gary, IN 46403  
\* (219) 938-0209  
\* FAX: (435) 603-0498  
\* lchary@uic.edu

\* Strategies for community action:  
protecting environmental health \* working for environmental justice\*

## Document 0086

Ms. Ellen Russell  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

RE: Require air and water quality mitigation for Mexicali power plants

Dear Ms. Russell:

We are very disturbed about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. We ask that the Department of Energy require that Semptra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Semptra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

0086-1

Intergen failed to install advanced NOx controls on one of its export turbines on start-up in June, 2003. Hundreds of tons of NOx beyond what had been estimated when DOE initially granted Intergen a permit were therefore released. This incident proves that, in addition to adequate mitigation measures, ongoing monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions in the presidential permits are vital.

The two power plants divert tremendous amounts of low salinity water from the New River to evaporative cooling towers—water that would otherwise flow to the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County, California. The Salton Sea suffers from increasing salinity that may ultimately jeopardize its status as one of the most important migratory bird habitats in the West.

0086-2

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. We urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

0086-3

Most sincerely,